The sponsors of the amendment were Congressmen Dick Durbin of Illinois, (D IL- 20), Joe Knollenberg of Michigan. Co-sponsors were New York Congressmen Benjamin Gilman, William Lipinski of Illinois and Martin Hoke from right here in Ohio.

Representative Gilman spoke on the House floor of the many groups including Lithuanian-Americans, who had voice their strong public support for the amendment. The bill now goes on to the Senate for debate. If passed by the Senate, President Clinton has threatened to veto the bill for reasons other than the issue of NATO expansion.

JBANC would like to thank all of the Baltic-American activists who contacted their Congressman and urged their support for the Durbin/Knollenberg amendment! Your continuing support does make a difference! Please remember to thank your Congressman as well!

BALTIC PRIME MINISTERS MEET IN RIGA. The Prime Ministers of the three Baltic republics met in Riga on 13 February and adopted the Baltic Council of Ministers' action plan for 1995 that envisions joint activities in defense, environmental protection, and harmonization of laws. They founded four new committees: Information Technology, Culture, Customs, and Border Guarding to supplement the council. The premiers also adopted resolutions on the Via Baltica roadlink and on the establishment of the Baltic Customs Union by 1 January 1998. They failed, however, to sign an anticipated trilateral agreement on agricultural trade. Lithuania will take over from Latvia the rotating presidency of the council on 1 July. * Saulius Girnius

NORWAY SUPPORTS LITHUANIA'S INTEGRATION INTO NATO, EU. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, on a two-day visit to Norway, held talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal along with members of the Norwegian parliament Foreign Affairs Committee. Norwegian officials noted that although Norway voted in a referendum not to join the European Union, it supported Lithuania's integration into the EU and NATO. The two foreign ministers signed agreements on mutual customs assistance and an accord providing for exchange of information on nuclear facilities and prompt notification of nuclear accidents. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.